



NEWS RELEASE

Date: June 29, 2016
District: 7 - Los Angeles and Ventura counties
Contact: Michael Comeaux
Phone: (213) 897-9372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Beach Parking Lot Makes Summer Debut on Highway 101 North of Ventura

Free Paved Lot Near Seacliff Exit Has More Than 200 Spaces

VENTURA -- As beachgoers in Southern California celebrate the Fourth of July holiday weekend, some of them will be flocking to a new public parking lot on the Pacific coast alongside Highway 101 north of Ventura.

Parking is free of charge in the new lot, which has more than 200 parking spaces. Drivers can reach it by taking the Seacliff exit off Highway 101 and going north on the old Rincon Highway, which dead ends at the new lot.

The lot is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. It is lighted and it features a pedestrian undercrossing, which also is lighted, under Highway 101 for beachgoers to reach the shore.

The new lot is in its first summer of use. It was built as part of an award-winning carpool lane and bike path construction project that was finished in 2015. The carpool lanes were the first in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The \$102 million project added a carpool lane in each direction on a 6-mile stretch of Highway 101 from Mobil Pier Road, near the Seacliff exit in Ventura County, to the Casitas Pass Road exit near Carpinteria in Santa Barbara County.

The project was a joint effort between Caltrans, the Ventura County Transportation Commission and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. Funding was awarded by the California Transportation Commission with state voter-approved Proposition 1B funds.

In May, the California Transportation Foundation awarded the carpool lane and bike path construction project as the foundation's Bicycle/Pedestrian Project of the Year at its annual awards luncheon in Sacramento. The California Bicycle Coalition voted it the best new bike path in the state. The new Class I bicycle path provides a safe, separated path of travel on the ocean side of Highway 101.

The new parking lot's pedestrian undercrossing also provides access to the new bike route via a gravel path.

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